



United States Attorney's Office  
District of Columbia

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## PRESS RELEASE

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### **Judge Sentences Northeast Man to 24 Years in Prison for Killing Innocent Bystander**

WASHINGTON, D.C. - Devonte Carlton, also known as "Von," was sentenced today by the Honorable Michael L Rankin, in the Superior Court of Washington, D.C., to 24 years in prison for the August 2009 murder of Deborah A. Brown, announced U.S. Attorney Ronald C. Machen Jr. Carlton previously pled guilty to Second Degree Murder While Armed on December 21, 2009.

According to evidence introduced at Carlton's plea hearing, on August 29, 2009, at approximately 9:40 p.m., Devonte Carlton was riding on a bicycle in the 2900 block of 14<sup>th</sup> Street, N.W., Washington, D.C., heading northbound. While riding the bicycle, Carlton pulled out a 9mm pistol, and fired multiple times at a group of people that were standing on the sidewalk near the northeast corner of the intersection of 14<sup>th</sup> and Harvard streets. One of the shots fired by Carlton hit Ms. Deborah A. Brown on the left side of her abdomen, causing injuries from which Ms. Brown later died. Ms. Brown was not Carlton's intended target; she was simply an innocent bystander walking in the block at the time that Carlton fired his gun.

Carlton committed this murder as part of an ongoing violent feud between a group that identifies itself with the 1400 block of Girard Street, N.W. (known as "G-Rod" crew), and a group that identifies itself with the Columbia Heights Village complex in the 1300 block of Columbia Road, N.W. (known as "CHV"). Carlton, who associated himself with the "G-Rod" crew, fired at the crowd gathered at the corner of 14<sup>th</sup> and Harvard Streets because he was attempting to kill or harm persons he believed to be "CHV" members.

In announcing today's sentence, U.S. Attorney Machen commended Metropolitan Police Department Detectives Stephen McDonald and John Bevilacqua, who handled the investigation of this murder. He also commended the work of Marcey Rinker, victim/witness advocate at the U.S. Attorney's Office, and Assistant U.S. Attorney Fernando Campoamor, who handled the investigation and prosecution of this case.